

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for performing a process for reducing to metallic form metal oxides, the metal oxides comprising metal oxides present in spent nuclear fuel, wherein the apparatus comprises:

an electrochemical cell which comprises:

- a body or housing;
- a cathode container; and
- a cathode connector;

wherein said body or housing is maintained as the cathode, and said electrochemical cell is free from bolted or screwed fittings.

2. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said cathode connector is affixed to an internal surface of the cell.

3. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein said cathode connector is affixed to an internal surface of the cell by means of welding.

4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein an electrical connection from the cathode container to the body or housing of the cell is provided by means of a cathode connector.

5. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein said electrical connection is provided by means of a press connection.

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said cathode connector comprises a cathode rail.

7. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein said rail is welded to the base of the cell.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cathode container comprises a mesh basket or metal oxide retaining vessel.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cathode container comprises an assembly of cathode containers.

10. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 9 wherein said assembly comprises an assembly of mesh baskets or metal oxide retaining vessels.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the electromechanical cell further comprises a carbon anode.

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the body or housing of the cell is maintained as the cathode by the provision of an electrical connection from a power supply to the body or housing of the cell.

13 - 26. (Canceled)